(v) Performance studies for 32 sewage treatment plants and 15 common effluent treatment plants have been carried out.

(c) and (d) During the 10th Plan, the on-going activities will be continued and consolidated.

Losses of Steel Industry

*38. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous steel industry is in a great crisis and almost all the units are running under losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the present crisis;

(c) whether the steel industry is demanding ban on import of seconds and defective steel ; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Due to adverse conditions in the steel market, both domestic and international, the Indian steel industry is passing through a difficult phase. Although many steel plants are maintaining a healthy record of operating profits, they are posting net losses after accounting for depreciation and interest. The primary factors responsible for this situation are (i) excess supply and low demand for steel in the domestic market, (ii) import of steel at low prices, (iii) falling steel prices, (iv) high production costs, (v) closure of important export markets for the Indian steel due to protectionist measures initiated by a number of importing countries, (vi) general slow down in the Indian economy and recessionary trends in the global steel market.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The main steel producers have been demanding a ban on the imports of seconds and defectives. To cope with the problem of cheap imports of seconds and defective steel items, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

- Floor prices on imports of seconds and defective of certain steel items imposed earlier continue;

- Restrictions have been imposed on entry of seconds and defectives through a few designated ports only;
- An additional duty of 10% has been imposed on the import of seconds variety of HR Coils;
- Pre-shipment inspection certification has been made mandatory for imports of seconds and defectives of all steel items; and
- Budget for 2002-2003 has proposed certain steps to further reduce import of seconds and defectives.

Restructuring of SAIL

*39. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is being restructured through formation of two strategic business units, based on product profile; and

(b) whether the Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL is also being bifurcated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As part of various tasks undertaken under the Financial and Business Restructuring of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL has already been internally re-organised into "Longs" and "Flats" for over a year to improve marketing efficiency.

Productivity of Coconut Cultivations in Kerala

*40. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted a proposal for improving the productivity of coconut cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to help the coconut farmers; and

(d) the details regarding the Coconut Mission project submitted by the Kerala Government?